

*AMERICAN STUDENTS AT THE NAPLES
ZOOLOGICAL STATION.*

IN another number of *SCIENCE* the steps leading to the establishment in 1892 of the United States Table at Naples, by the Smithsonian Institution are described. Upon behalf of Harvard College, Prof. Alexander Agassiz subscribed for a second table at the same time. Mr. William E. Dodge, of New York, has recently visited the Station, and has offered to contribute \$250 a year for three years toward a third American Table. In response to this offer Dr. Anton Dohrn has sent to Mr. Dodge the following interesting letter, giving a complete history of American work at the Naples Station up to the present time:

"When I established the Station I had a correspondence with Professor Louis Agassiz, who greatly applauded my plans, but at the time was not in a position to establish any relations with us. In a later letter he told me that he had also begun to work in the same direction, having procured a sum of money and a suitable locality in Penikese Island, where he would try to establish a school of marine biology. In the year 1881 Professor Whitman, now of Chicago University, came to Naples, on his return from Japan, where he had been professor at Tokio for two years, and asked for permission to work in the Zoological Station. Although there was no American Table for him I offered him hospitality, and he remained for six months. Half a year later came Miss Nunn, availing herself of the table of the University of Cambridge, also for six months. In 1883 Dr. Sharp, from Philadelphia, spent two months at the Bavarian Table. In the same year the first American Table was engaged by Williams College for one year, and this table was first occupied by Prof. E. B. Wilson, now at Columbia College, for six months, and was engaged later by Professor Clarke, of Williams College, but owing to sickness

he postponed coming until the year 1884. In 1885 the table was subscribed for one year by the University of Pennsylvania, and was occupied first by Dr. Dolley and later by Dr. Patten. Dr. Patten was also received for six months as our guest.

"All my efforts to secure the coöperation of other American colleges proved unsuccessful, and again the American naturalists took advantage of the English and German Tables. Dr. Cobb, of Massachusetts, occupied the British Association Table for two months. Mr. Norman, of Indiana, occupied the Hamburg Table; Mr. Ward, from Troy, the table of the Grand Duchy of Baden, and Mr. Kaufman one of the Prussian Tables. This was in the spring of 1891, when Major Davis first visited Naples and became acquainted with the state of things. He immediately offered, in a most generous way, to engage a table for his countrymen, and asked me not to admit any more Americans to the European tables. His table was immediately occupied by Dr. Russell, a botanist, who worked here during four months; by Miss Platt, of Boston, for three months, and again in the second year by Professor E. B. Wilson, then of Bryn Mawr. Dr. Corning, also an American, but occupying the post of assistant in Prague University, came upon one of the Austrian Tables, and Dr. Bashford Dean, of Columbia, upon the Bavarian Table, while the Davis Table was occupied by others. In the year 1893 the Davis Table was occupied by Dr. Field, of Baltimore, and Dr. Parker, from Harvard College. In the meantime Dr. C. W. Stiles, of Washington, who had paid a short visit to the Zoological Station in 1891, led a movement for the establishment of more direct official relations between American institutions and the Zoological Station, and finally upon the unanimous recommendation of the Society of American Naturalists, the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution entered into a contract for

an American table for three years. Almost at the same time Professor Agassiz engaged a table for Harvard College for three years. Both of these tables are in demand by so many investigators that they still do not cover the needs of American students. In fact, there have always been more American occupants than tables, and I receive them willingly as guests. Dr. Fairchild, of Washington, Dr. Wheeler, of Chicago, and Professor Bumpus, of Brown University, occupied the Smithsonian Table in 1893-94, while Mr. Rice, of Washington, occupied the Harvard Table in 1894. In 1894-5 Dr. Murbach, of Berkeley, occupied the Smithsonian Table, while Dr. Child and Professor Ritter, of the University of California, occupied the Harvard Table. At the same time Professor Hargitt, of Syracuse University, and Professor Gardiner, of the University of Colorado, were received as guests. At the present time Professor Morgan, of Bryn Mawr, and Professor Leslie Osborn, of the University of Indiana, are occupying the Smithsonian Table, and Dr. Nutting and Professor Reighard are soon expected to arrive.

"These twenty-nine American naturalists have already profited by the Zoölogical Station, and many more would have come had arrangements been made earlier and on a larger scale. In comparison with European states, I may state that Germany rents eleven tables, Italy nine, Austria-Hungary three, England three, Russia three (which were discontinued this year, but are going to be continued). Spain has had three, which have been for a time discontinued, but will most likely be re-established. Holland, Belgium, Switzerland and Roumania have each one table. I entertain the hope that France and the Scandinavian kingdoms will subsequently secure tables. I am glad to say that the Zoölogical Station is quite capable of giving them all the full benefit of its complete arrangements."

This letter places before American zoölo-

gists in the most direct and convincing manner the importance, not to say obligation, of remedying the past infringement upon the hospitality of the broad-minded director of the famous station. The Smithsonian table and the Harvard table should now be supplemented by a third, and it is to be hoped that some means will be found of adding \$250 to the generous subscription of Mr. Dodge and securing this end.

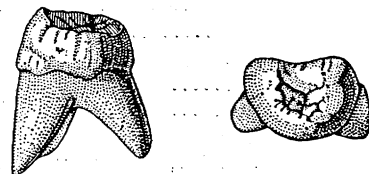
HENRY F. OSBORN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PITHECANTHROPUS ERECTUS.

MR. EDITOR: In SCIENCE of January 11, p. 47, Dr. D. G. Brinton reviews under the title 'The Missing Link Found at Last,' Dr. E. Dubois' Memoir on *Pithecanthropus erectus*. Dr. Brinton, while accepting the dental apparatus to be of the simian type, acknowledges that the skull is like the famous Neanderthal man, and that the femora are singularly human. Professor O. C. Marsh (Silliman's Journal, February, 1895, p. 144) calls *Pithecanthropus* an 'ape-man.' In another place he alludes to it as a 'large anthropoid ape.' A communication signed 'R. L.,' presumably Richard Lydekker, appeared in 'Nature,' January 24, 1895; the ground is taken that the femur of *Pithecanthropus* is 'actually human;' that the skull 'can belong to no wild anthropoid;' and that the molar may 'perfectly well be human.'

It thus appears that differences of opinion are already being entertained, respecting the validity of *Pithecanthropus*. I have ventured to make a contribution to the subject,



since I quite agree with 'R. L.' The single tooth preserved (see the accompanying cut)